

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 23-FEB-98

SUBJECT: Removal Assessment Findings on Smoky Mountain Smelters Site; 1508 Maryville Pike, Knoxville, TN.

FROM: Don Rigger, Removal Assessment Team OSC

TO: Robert Morris, RPM

BACKGROUND

Robert Morris of the North Superfund Remedial Branch referred the above-referenced site to ERRB as a possible removal candidate on 17-FEB-98. Environmental concerns at the site result from former manufacturing operations involving secondary aluminum smelting. These concerns are documented in a Preliminary Assessment Report submitted to EPA by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Waste generated by the manufacturing process has been abandoned at the site. This waste includes aluminum dross, anode/cathode waste, baghouse dust and slag. Waste and environmental samples were collected as part of the Preliminary Assessment. Aluminum dross evolves ammonia gas and hydrogen sulfide gas when wetted. The dross piles at the site are uncovered.

FINDINGS

Based on the PA report the site meets the 40CFR 300.415(b)(2) criteria for a removal action. However, because of the severity of the threat, this site is a low priority for ERRB at this time. The most significant threat posed by the site is the potential for the release of ammonia and hydrogen sulfide from the dross piles during rainfall events. ERRB has a lot of experience with aluminum dross, particularly in Kentucky. It has been ERRB's consistent policy not to respond to dross sites because the risk posed by the evolved gases does not justify the cost to remove and properly dispose of the waste. Should more information about the threats posed by this site become available, ERRB will re-evaluate this decision.



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